



25th Legislative District



Democratic Focus



WASHINGTON STATE DEMOCRATIC CHAIR DWIGHT PELTZ GAVE AN ENTHUSIASTIC PRESENTATION ABOUT THE DEBT CRISIS IN THE US AND TOOK QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE.

Next General Membership Meeting is Monday Jul 1st at 7:00pm at the Puyallup Library. The subject will be Candidate Endorsements For Local Elections

**25TH LEGISLATIVE
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(LDD) OFFICERS**

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DEMOCRATIC
ELECTED
OFFICIALS**

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For all other elected officials:
Legislative Hotline:
1-800-562-6000

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CONTACT INFO**
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ies of FOCUS check out 25th
LDD Website at: **25dems.org**
www.25dems.org

MEETINGS

**1 Jul Mon 25 LDD meeting at
7 PM at Puyallup Library.**
**Subject: Candidate
Endorsement for Local
Elections**

**20 Jul Sat DEADLINE FOR
FOCUS articles, pictures, etc.**



**29 Jul Mon E-Board
meets at 7 PM at Fire
Station 66**

**5 Aug Mon 25 LDD Meeting at
7 PM at Puyallup Library.**



**17 Aug Sat DEAD-
LINE FOR FOCUS
articles, pictures, etc.**

**26 Aug Mon E-Board meets at
7 PM at Fire Station 66**

**9 Sep Mon 25 LDD meeting at
7 PM at Puyallup Library.**



**14 Sep Sat DEAD-
LINE FOR FOCUS
articles, pictures, etc.**

Chair's Comment

By *Ed Herde*

We are in another campaign season and it is time for Democrats to work to elect Democrats and non-partisans that support Democratic values. We need to remember that all elected officials have an impact on our lives, not just our own representatives. If you live in an area with a shortage of contested races that you can help with, remember you should help candidates that represent your values in other areas. We are currently in a budget stalemate in the state legislature. This log jam would have been avoided if Democrat Tim Probst had received 79 more votes for state senate in the 17th legislative district in Vancouver in the 2012 general election. The 17th legislative district is in the southern most county in the state, but the Democratic loss in the state senate there last year is affecting everyone in the state.

Precinct Committee Officers can have a big impact on local elections by using the tools provided them through the Democratic Party's Vote Builder program, which includes a data base of all registered voters. I would like to thank the PCO's that came to the Vote Builder training last month at the Longshoreman's Hall in Fife. Nic Van Putten and Beverly Smaby of the Pierce County Democrats did a great job teaching us how to utilize Vote Builder to efficiently help our candidates focus their doorbelling campaigns. Any PCO that did not make it to the May training should contact me about getting this training so you can be a greater help to the candidates we support. Vote Builder also is a great tool to recruit Democrats to join our membership and get involved.

Our next general membership meeting will be our candidate forum and endorsement meeting on Monday July 1st at the Puyallup library. I urge all members to come and hear the candidates and help decide who we will endorse.

FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.

The University of Alaska spans four time zones;

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.

**MINUTES OF 25th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION**

Member Meeting, June 3, 2013 Held at Puyallup Library

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Ed Herde. Ed Herde led the flag salute. Roll was called.

Officers present: Chair Ed Herde, Vice Chair Rebecca Gallogly, Treasurer Luanne Green, Assistant Treasurer Kathryn Wright, Secretary Eric Renz, Sgt-at-Arms Bryan Yambe, Membership Chair Ray Green, State Committeeman David Henry, State Committeewoman Ellen Zulauf, PC Dem Rep #1 Eric Herde, PC Dem Rep #2 Rebecca Gallogly, PC Dem Rep #3 Mervin Swanson.

The consent agenda was approved as presented

Candidate Presentations:

Connie Bacon, re-elect as Port of Tacoma Commissioner

Julie Door, Puyallup City Council, Dist. 3

Corry Glucoft, Puyallup City Council, Dist. 2

Guest Speaker: Dwight Pelz, Executive Director, Washington State Democrats

“Wealth Distribution as a Scandal and Economic Threat”

Candidates II: Dave Dormier, candidate for Port of Tacoma Commissioner

Bryan Yambe is a candidate for Fife City Council

Elected Officials: Representative Dawn Morrell briefed us on the current budget jam in Olympia.

Adjourned at 8:67pm

Eric Renz Secretary

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SUPREME COURT DOMA DECISION

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court struck down a key part of the federal [Defense of Marriage Act](#) on Wednesday and declared that same-sex couples who are legally married deserve equal rights to the benefits under federal law that go to all other married couples.

The decision is a landmark win for the gay rights movement. It voids a section of the law known as DOMA, which was adopted with bipartisan support in [Congress](#) in 1996 to deny all benefits and recognition to same-sex couples.

At that time, no state permitted gays and lesbians to marry. Now, 12 states and the District of Columbia authorize same-sex marriages.

[FULL COVERAGE: Prop. 8 and DOMA](#)

Justice [Anthony Kennedy](#), speaking for the 5-4 majority, said DOMA was unconstitutional because it violated the right to liberty and to equal protection for gay couples. "By seeking to displace this protection and treating those persons as living in marriages less respected than others, the federal statute" violates the Constitution, he said

Dissenting were Justices John Roberts, Antonin Scalia, Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas.

The ruling means that more than 100,000 gay and lesbian couples who are legally married will be able to take advantage of tax breaks, pension rights and other benefits that are available to other married couples.

Four years ago, several gay couples who were married in Massachusetts launched a lawsuit to challenge DOMA, arguing it denied them equal protection of the laws. They won before a federal judge in Boston and before the federal appeals court there.

[DOCUMENTS: Supreme Court decisions on DOMA, Prop. 8](#)

Their win prompted the Obama administration to switch course and join with the challengers, who said the law was discriminatory. House Republicans voted to take up the legal defense of the law.

When the issue reached the Supreme Court, the justices voted to decide a case brought by Edith Windsor, a New York widow who was sent a \$363,000 estate tax bill by the Internal Revenue Service after her wife died in 2009.

The decision leaves in place another provision in the law that says no state is required to recognize gay marriages performed in any other state. That provision was not under challenge.

From the Los Angeles Times June 26, 2013



State budget writers are inching closer to an agreement that will hopefully be presented to legislators for approval next week. Time is of the essence - the fiscal year ends June 30.

We are fighting for a budget that takes a good step toward funding education without rigging the system against seniors, kids, and people with disabilities.

The negotiators received two shots of good news this week :

The [Economic and Revenue Forecast Council](#) reported they expect \$231 million more in revenue over the next two years than they previously projected.

The [Caseload Forecast Council](#), which keeps track of how many kids are in our schools, inmates are in our prisons, seniors are in nursing homes, etc., projected a savings of \$90 million for the next biennium.

This welcome news is tempered, of course, by the Supreme Court's McCleary decision, which ordered the Legislature to increase spending on K-12 education by at least \$4.5 billion by 2018. Another thing to keep in mind is how much has been cut from state spending in recent years – around \$12 billion from all kinds of state services including parks, environmental clean-up, senior day care, teachers' salaries, etc. And that was before the McCleary decision was handed down. So, while these good forecasts get us closer to a go-home budget for this year, we can't pretend we've solved the long-term problem of adequately funding our kids' education. There is still much work to be done in the coming years to meet our constitutional and moral obligation.

More good news on the economic front

Washington state's unemployment rate dropped to 6.8 percent last month and the state added an estimated 4,100 jobs, the Employment Security Department reported Wednesday. The May jobless rate is down from April's rate of 7 percent, and well below the national unemployment rate of 7.6 percent. Economists say that our unemployment rate has fallen by 0.7 percentage points since the start of the year, and it is now the lowest since November 2008, when the rate was 6.5 percent. However, more than 119,000 Washingtonians claimed unemployment benefits last week, so there's still a lot of room for improvement.

That's why I am working to get a capital budget and a transportation package approved this session. These investments in roads, bridges, schools, colleges, water projects, and other public infrastructure are good for our businesses **and** they create lots of jobs all over the state.



**25 LDD STATE REP DAWN MORRELL GAVE THE GROUP
AT THE JUNE MEETING
AN UPDATE ON THE SPECIAL SESSION.**

FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

In ancient times strangers shook hands to show that they were unarmed.

Strawberries are the only fruits whose seeds grow on the outside.

Soldiers do not march in step when going across bridges because they could set up a vibration which could be sufficient to knock the bridge down.

**25th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
FINANCIAL REPORT
WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE EACH MONTH UPON REQUEST BY
A MEMBER INSTEAD OF BEING ON THE WEBSITE.**

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ?

DUES SHOULD BE PAID NOW FOR 2013!

Use this form to recruit friends and neighbors to join you
in helping our Democratic party.

Name: _____ Address: _____
City/ _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Precinct: _____
Email: _____

Dues: Evergreen (includes Senior, outside district, etc) \$10 per member; Rainier \$25; Chair's Voice \$50; Senators Club \$100 (can be paid in installments.)

Please send dues to: 25th LDD, PO Box 73594, Puyallup, WA 98373 or

Pay by credit card: click on <https://secureform.cloud.clickandpledge.com/20184/1/>



**Well, you should be if you want the truth about politics
by Frank Blair and Traci Kelly on their radio show
Fridays at 1200 to 1 PM on KLAY 1180 AM!**

**And if for some reason or other you miss it then go to equaltimeradio.net.
Tune in or be tuned out.**

NOT A 25TH LD MEMBER? YOU ARE NEEDED

Dear Democrat,

I am writing to ask you as a past member of the 25th Legislative District Democrats organization to consider renewing your membership for 2013. In the present political climate with organized attacks on voting rights, a vibrant media, the environment, labor laws, worker safety, Social Security, Medicare and more it is important that we have funds available to help candidates and issues even at a local level. The right wing and corporate interests that are now trying to take away the advances that have kept many Americans out of poverty over the past six decades are attacking us on a state and local level because it is easier to sneak past the people with our weak local media, than it is to change national policy.

Please join or renew your membership with the 25th Legislative Democrats to help stem the tide of attacks on democratic principles. It is more important than ever to become more involved.

Sincerely,

Ed Herde, District Chair